We quite agree in this; but—who is to pay the piper?——The *Moniteur* contains a decree opening a credit of 500,000f. for the conservation of the Louvre and other public buildings and monuments.——A second decree allocates 250,000f. to the construction of the temporary *salle* for the National Assembly.——The municipality of Paris is about to build a central market, which will cost 900,000*l*., and will require ten years for its erection.——The eviction of English workmen from France is a foul act, of which France, when restored to her senses, will be ashamed for many a long year. The *Times* truly remarks,—"It is scarcely too much to say that, without the assistance of English capital, English skill, and English labour, France would have lagged far behind other nations in the construction of those great public works, the execution of which, until the latter end of last month, we had supposed to be the peculiar mission of the age. With a perfect reliance on the good faith of our neighbours, English capitalists embarked their fortunes in these enterprises; English labourers by the thousand expatriated themselves to bring to a successful completion the works which, had the contractors depended on French workmen alone, would have remained innocent of train or traffic to the end of time. The fact is notorious. The different scale of wages given to the English and French labourers is the best evidence of the view of the question taken by the parties who were most vitally interested in its decision." From the Caen stone quarries alone, we hear with regret, 200 Englishmen have been discharged. France will suffer from her own wrong-doing in this matter, and England, in the long run, must be benefitted by it;—meantime, to the individuals it brings ruin.

LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL COMPETITION.

MR. EDITOR,—The general interest you have taken in the subject of competitions, and the many just complaints you have with advantage urged against the abuses of the system, induce me to give you some information relative to that which has lately taken place for the new London Fever Hospital, in the management of which institution I am interested.

In September last three architects, Messrs. Fowler, Mocatta, and Hallton, were solicited to compete for the appointment of architect, with the understanding that the unsuccessful parties were to receive fifty guineas each for their designs. The instructions accompanying this application to the architects gave evidence that the subject had been deeply matured, and the respectability of the president, Lord Devon, and of the members of the committee, left no doubt on the mind that a fair and honourable result would be secured. The designs were delivered in October, and in November the decision of the committee was in favour of Mr. Mocatta's plan, as was stated by you in a leading article, with praise to the committee for the course they had adopted.* Since that period, a most unjust reversal has taken place. The president, in conjunction with the secretary (both lawyers), made it appear, that the authority or power to apply the money was vested, by the London and York Railway Bill, in the *president* and *trustees* of the institution alone, and they proceeded to dispossess the committee of the rights of the executive, and threw overboard all the acts of that body. The selected design was repudiated, and Mr. Fowler was appointed by Lord Devon. The notice to Mr. Mocatta that his design was rejected, when everything had been prepared for commencing, without any reason assigned, was given, accompanied by an offer of a very inadequate remuneration for his design and working drawings. This offer was acquiesced in, probably because it was seen that the only remedy would have been litigation, and the point of law could only have been urged against the acting committee, the members of which had quite as much cause to feel aggrieved as the architect in the case.

I am sure you will agree with me, that the president has usurped a power not morally, if legally, vested in him by the wording of a railway Bill; but even had he possessed a more unequivocal right, surely the deliberate opinion of men equally interested in the charity with himself, should have induced him to abstain from thrusting his own choice on them against their honest conviction of the superior merits of another design, and to the prejudice of a respectable architect who had fought the fight fairly and gained the victory. The payment that was necessarily made to the latter seems to me a reprehensible and illegal application of the funds of the hospital, and is liable to be made the subject of an action for a breach of trust. I am not quite certain that the appointed architect should escape blame, for it appears to me subversive of all honour in competition, when a man of standing allows himself to be made a party to an act of injustice to a brother architect.

AN OLD PHYSICIAN.

* See p. 573, Vol. V.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE, CANTERBURY.

OF the many changes which have occurred in the land since Gothic architecture was first known among us, those relating to the various buildings raised in that style are not among the least of them. The stronghold and castle of the nobles were, for the most part, allowed to fall to ruin, when the more peaceful disposition of the people rendered them no longer requisite for protection. Royal palaces have, in some cases, entirely disappeared, or have been put to uses quite at variance with those originally assigned to them. The palace of Richmond no longer exists, the great hall of the palace at Eltham is now a barn, the Crosby-hall, after being long used as wine stores, is now the lecture-room of a literary institution. The splendid palaces of the Archbishop of Canterbury at Mayfield and Canterbury have but few vestiges remaining, and that at Croydon was not long since, if it is not still, used as a laundry. Amid this general ruin, it was not to be hoped that the buildings appertaining to the various monastic institutions could escape, especially when in the hands of such destroyers as Henry VIII. and Oliver Cromwell. The history of most of these buildings is at all times interesting, if only to shew the various changes they have undergone, and few, if any, of them can vie, in this latter particular, with the *Monastery of St. Augustine, at Canterbury*. The various fortunes that have befallen it from time to time, the different hands it has passed into, and the state of degradation into which it at last fell, and from which it has only lately been rescued induce us just to glance at its history briefly, before noticing the improvement that has now taken place.

As may be supposed from the name it bears, it was founded by St. Augustine, who landed in Kent in the year 596, and by his preaching made so great an impression on the minds of Ethelbert and his queen, that they gave up their palace to him and his followers. The monastic institution thus early established here was first dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, but the name of St. Augustine was given to it by Dunstan, in the year 978. From this time it gradually became one of the most important religious establishments in the country. In the year 1539, its annual revenues amounted to the then large sum of 1,400*l*., but in that year it shared the fate of the other monastic institutions, and passed into the hands of the crown. The buildings were once again converted into a royal palace; and in 1573 Queen Elizabeth held her court here for a short period. In June, 1625, Charles I. was here married to Henriette Marie, daughter of Henry IV. of France. During the Protectorship of Cromwell, they were granted to Lord Wootton; and at the Restoration, Charles II. rested here on his way to London. From this time, the importance of the place rapidly declined; the buildings were allowed to fall to ruin, or wantonly destroyed. At length it passed into the hands of Sir Edward Hales, and from him to a *Mr. Beer*, a brewer, by whom it was used for the purposes of his business. In 1836, when sketches were made of the gateway by Mr. Caveler, for the purpose of publishing them in his "Specimens of Gothic Architecture," all that remained of the building was used as follows:—The lower part of the gateway was converted into a brewhouse; the room over, said to have been the state bed-chamber (though this is more than doubtful) into a vat; the splendid turrets flanking the gateway were used as pigeon-houses; the chapel as a public-house; and the space once occupied by the cloisters appropriated to tea-gardens and a skettle-ground!

The place could suffer no lower degradation, but happily at this period it caught the eye of a gentleman well known for his great taste and munificence in all matters relating to architecture. About three years since the whole property was purchased by Mr. A. B. Hope, with the view of erecting a missionary college on the spot. Subscriptions were at once entered into, and reached a large amount; the whole matter was then placed in the hands of Mr. Butterfield, who has designed and superintended the work from the commencement.

In giving a description of the buildings now occupying the site of the monastery, it may be as well to say a few words of the fine old gateway forming now, as of old, the principal entrance. It is so generally known and appreciated, that it is merely requisite to observe that proper means have been taken for its preservation, and such parts only restored as absolutely stood in need of it. The fine old gates have been repaired and rehung after suffering years of neglect and ill usage.

The buildings at present erected occupy only three sides of a quadrangle, the south side being left open. The north side is occupied by a cloister, over which are the rooms for the accommodation of the students, each of whom has two rooms, the whole opening into an airy corridor. The apartments are of very small dimensions, perhaps too small, but care seems to have been taken to render them convenient, and due regard has been paid to warming and ventilation. The cloister beneath will be valuable as a place of exercise for the students in bad weather, and is in itself a very ornamental feature. The east side of the quadrangle is occupied by the library and museum, the latter forming the ground story, and having much the appearance of a crypt, the roof being groined and supported by circular shafts of stone.

The library is a well-proportioned room, the oak roof of a good pitch, and entirely open. The room is divided into as many compartments as there are windows; this arrangement is very convenient, but the proportion of the room is entirely lost. The exterior of these buildings has a good effect, which is enhanced by the terrace, on which the north and east sides of the quadrangle are elevated. The buildings on the west side comprise, beside the gateway, the chapel, dining-hall, warden's house, and the usual domestic offices. The west end of the chapel (a very good specimen of Early English), has been carefully restored, but the same character has not been preserved throughout; the east end is early decorated, and the whole of the interior fittings are of the same period. An open oak screen is placed across the west end of the chapel, and stalls arranged on either side; the details of the whole of this wood-work are rather poor. The windows are filled with stained glass, and the floor paved with painted tiles. The whole effect of this chapel, with the exception above mentioned, is good.

The dining hall, placed between the chapel and the gateway, is a large room with an open roof of oak, a raised platform at the south end for the dais (which by the way is a fine specimen of ancient carving), and an ample fireplace.

We have thus endeavoured briefly to describe the different portions of the building, and would now add a few words as to the materials which have been used in the construction. The library and museum are of undressed Kentish rag, in irregular courses, with Caen stone dressings; the buttresses of the chapel are of square flint, and the whole of the other buildings of flint or Caen stone. The roof is entirely of stone tiles with ornamental crest tiles. The whole of the doors and interior fittings of English oak, the hinges and escutcheons of ornamental iron-work, and the whole of minor details in strict accordance with the rest of the building. The workmanship is generally good, but perhaps the worst part is the east end of the chapel, which has rather a clumsy appearance. It is but rarely in these times that an architect has an opportunity of engaging in such a work as the building of a college, and the task is one

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